



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

December 16, 2004

News Release

ICE DEPORTS TWO NORTHFIELD CRIMINALS

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers with deported two illegal aliens Wednesday who had been convicted of crimes committed in Northfield.

One man, Gregorio Garza-Lazaro, 26, of Mexico, was convicted in June 2003 in Rice County District Court of Criminal Vehicular Operation Resulting in Bodily Harm. Garza-Lazaro, who at the time was using the alias Ramon Vasquez-Lasaro, struck a man with his vehicle. The conviction resulted in a sentence of 365 days.

Garza-Lazario was later arrested in Northfield and convicted December 13 in Rice County District Court of Third Degree Sale of a Controlled Substance.

The second man deported Wednesday, Carlos Casteneda-Dominguez, 20, also of Mexico, was convicted in Rice County District Court on December 10 of First Degree Sale of a Controlled Substance (cocaine) and sentenced to 98 months in jail.

“A priority for ICE is to get criminals off the streets,” said ICE Field Office Director Scott Baniecke. “Those who enter our country illegally have no right to be here, and those who commit serious crimes are at the top of our list for arrest and removal.” Baniecke oversees ICE’s Detention and Removal Operations program for a five-state area.



Garza-Lazaro



Casteneda-Dominguez

During fiscal year 2004, which ended Sept. 30, ICE detention and removal officers removed 3,152 criminal aliens and status violators from a five-state area that includes Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa. Of that number, 1,488 were classified as criminal aliens for having been convicted of such crimes as drug offenses, assault and battery, armed robbery, rape, and fraud, among others. The remaining 1,664 had committed administrative immigration law violations.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file of either man, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at Tim.Counts@dhs.gov.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.